

\* Federal' side and the apotheosis of Napoleon. The third book closes with Napoleon's entry into Milan ; but if the poem had been continued one wonders how the action could ever have been brought to a climax or to any natural conclusion. It is safe indeed to assume that even if Disraeli had received the encouragement which he looked for, he could never have completed the *Epick*; as in the case of *Vivian Grey* or *Oontarini Fleming*^ the impulse of creation must have spent itself and the current of his story have lost itself in shallows. He was able to remain at ease with his revolutionary theme through the space of a book Dr more, but he could not long have pursued it without acute spiritual discomfort. Revolutionary as he really was on one side of his complex nature, there was another side which is exposed in the first book of the *Epick* and which was to be the front presented to the world in his subsequent career. Reverence for the past, a Semitic feeling for religion, an instinct for the positive, for order, for tradition, for everything that Carlyle embodies in the phrase ' the everlasting yea ' — all these things were strong within him, and it was in their development and expression and not in the *role* of revolutionary leader that his mission really lay. Yet to the end the revolutionary side was there; and it is just because Disraeli never lost his sympathy with the modern spirit, never felt any of that morose shrinking from new political ideals which afflicts

Conservatives of a narrower type, that his  
Conservatism  
; so sane, so robust, and so fruitful; without  
forgetting  
le things which are behind he is always  
found reaching  
>rth unto the things which  
are before.

*To Sarah Disraeli.*

THE GRANGE, SOTJTHEND,  
*Thursday.* [Feb.  
13, 1834.]

Y DEAR CHILD,

Although I have only half a sheet in my desk,  
you shall not a loser thereby. I continue here  
quite alone, my only com-